



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

907 West Lake Drive, PO Box 530, Taylor, Texas 76574

512-352-2593 office @fumctaylor.org

For updates sent via text message: please text @fumctaylor to number 81010

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WORSHIP SERVICE

10:30 am Traditional

First United Methodist Church

where God meets people face to face!

December 8, 2024 – 10:30 A.M.

Second Sunday of Advent

“I will guide you along the BEST PATHWAY for your life!” Psalm 32:8

**For your children, activity bags are available in the foyer.
Child care is available during the service.*

(Stand, if able.)*

MUSIC TO PREPARE OUR HEARTS

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Liturgist

***OPENING HYMN** “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” UMH # 211
*Antiphon 1 and Verse 1, Antiphon 2 and Verse 2,
Antiphon 3 and Verse 3, Antiphon 4 and Verse 4*

***OPENING PRAYER** *(In unison)* Liturgist

Lord, we have prepared our homes, and our gifts, but we need help in preparing our spirits to receive your message of Peace and Joy. Lord, free us from the stresses and strains of this time, and place your peace which passes all our understanding in our hearts. For we ask this in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

SHARING GREETINGS *(Please greet someone that you do not know.)*

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Tiffany Charles

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE two: The Garcia-Edwardsen Family
Reading Mark 1:4
Congregational Response Carol “Light the Advent Candle” (Verse 2)
TFWS # 2090

***HYMN** “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” UMH # 240
(verses 1 – 3; interlude between verses 2 and 3)

SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS & PASTORAL PRAYER Rev. Yohan Baek

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY “He is Born” Choir

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 55: 8-9

Liturgist

The Lord says, “My thoughts are not like your thoughts. Your ways are not like my ways. Just as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts higher than your thoughts.”

MY FAVORITE CHRISTMAS CAROL

Adult Bible Study Group

***HYMN**

“I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day”
(verses 1 - 5)

~Insert

MESSAGE

“A God of Surprises”

Rev. Yohan Baek

Note 1: In the first half of pregnancy, baby starts **creating her first brain cells- neurons- at the crazy rapid rate of 250,000 per minute**. In the second half of pregnancy, the brain begins **connecting those neurons, creating 700 synapses per second**.

Note 2: Luke 1: 30-31

“Mary, you have nothing to fear. God has a surprise for you. You will become pregnant and give birth to a son and call his name Jesus.”

Note 3: Luke 1: 26-27

“During Elizabeth’s sixth month of pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin. She was engaged to marry a man named Joseph from the family of David. Her name was Mary.”

Note 4: According to a Forbes magazine article, the criteria that our world uses to determine if someone is powerful, influential, important are:

- 1) what kind of power do they have (How many people do they have authority over?)
- 2) What kind of financial resources do they control (what kind of money do they have)?

Note 5: Mary and Joseph do not have enough money to buy a sacrificial lamb, so they have to go with Option B, which was to sacrifice two birds instead: a) ravens, b) cardinals, c) seahawks, d) none of the above.

Note 6: Leviticus 12:8

“But if she cannot afford a lamb, she is to bring two ... or two young, one for a burnt offering and the other for a sin offering. In this way the priest will make atonement for her, and she will be clean.”

Luke 2:24

“Mary and Joseph also went to offer a sacrifice, as the law of the Lord says: “You must sacrifice two () or two young ().”

Note 7: Jesus was born to poor parents in a small nothing town. Why? Because Jesus wants to identify with some of us who are struggling with their backgrounds.

***SENDING HYMN**

“Do You Hear What I Hear?”

~Insert

BENEDICTION

Rev. Yohan Baek

***POSTLUDE**

“Hallelujah Chorus”

UMH (The United Methodist Hymnal – red hymnal)

WORSHIP LEADERS

Rev. Yohan Baek, Pastor

Brian Gray, Liturgist

Jeeyoung Baek, Pianist

Tiffany Charles, Director of Children’s Ministry and Mother’s Day Out

Julia Coward, Nursery Director & Children’s Church

Robert & Tenny Swonke, Greeters

Jim Curik and Glynn Tucker, Ushers

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Thank you for joining us for worship today at the Happiest Church in Taylor!

Please join us for our special Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Service on

Tuesday, December 24 at 6:00 PM.